



## NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

May 18, 2006

### REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

#### Leadership Corner: Learning from George Washington

*By Kim Runk, WFO Las Vegas MIC*

What was it about George Washington? Thomas Jefferson was clearly more intellectual and eloquent; John Adams and James Madison were more politically savvy; Benjamin Franklin far more ingenious and innovative. Yet each of these prominent men, all founding fathers of our country, acknowledged without reservation that Washington was their superior. Why was that? What qualified George Washington as such an unquestioned leader? I believe the answer can be crystallized into a single word: balance.

First, Washington demonstrated a balance between humility and confidence. When the Continental Congress asked him to serve as Commander of the Army in 1775, Washington said, "I do not think myself equal to the task I am honored with. It is a trust too great for my capacity." This realistic sense of his own shortcomings was matched with "a firm belief in the justice of our cause" and a unanimous vote left him no choice but to accept the call. Washington made this commitment nearly a year before Jefferson penned the pledge of "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" in the Declaration of Independence. It shaped his place in history as one of many important firsts, and he made it with eyes wide open, fully understanding of what was at stake. Failure would mean getting hanged, with his name slurred and his property confiscated.

Washington also managed to strike the right balance between courage and wisdom. He led a band of disorganized volunteer militia men against the most dominant army in the world, displaying an unbridled bravery in battle that inspired those who fought with him, almost as though he knew destiny favored an American victory. Although he was not a brilliant military commander (he actually lost more battles than he won), he was wise enough to seek counsel for engagement strategies, but then took responsibility for the final decisions. He was vulnerable enough to admit mistakes, but vowed to learn from them and never repeat them. Despite being out-numbered, out-equipped, and out-trained, under Washington's leadership the Revolutionary Army somehow managed to outwit and out-maneuver the British, ultimately defeating them at Yorktown.

A final balance Washington demonstrated was the delicate one between ambition and integrity. He admitted an aspiration to do something great, but he would not allow any pursuit of prominence to be tainted by corruption. Even his enemies and critics acknowledged that Washington could not be bribed or compromised.

During the war, Washington expressly recruited black men to enlist, even writing John Hancock that if Congress opposed him, he would overrule them. He established the precedent of a racially integrated army that, except for a few isolated incidents, would not be repeated until the time of President Harry Truman during the Korean War. As president, he supported two proposals to emancipate slaves. One

was by Lafayette in 1783. Washington embraced the plan without reservation, writing “The scheme, my dear Marquis, which you propose to encourage emancipation of the black people of our country from that state of bondage in which they are held, is a striking evidence of the benevolence of your heart. I shall be happy to join you in so laudable a work.” When it was debated and rejected in the legislature, Washington described it as “a sign that the revolutionary fire that burned so brightly early in the conflict has now subsided and every selfish passion has taken its place.”

Once national independence was secured and the time came to choose a leader for the new government, it was again Washington who fostered such universal trust that he received all 69 electoral votes. He remains the only figure in American history to receive all electoral votes, and he did it not once but twice!

After two terms as president, Washington established another first by declining to run again. Many patriots suggested that Washington declare himself King to ensure stability in the fledgling government. Washington’s response was emphatic: “Banish these thoughts from your mind!” He denounced the plan as being “fraught with folly and trouble”. England’s King George III stated that if Washington resisted the mantle of monarch, he would be “the greatest man in the world”. It was indeed an exceptional decision. Napoleon, Lenin, Mao, Castro – none of these men stepped aside to surrender the power laid on them after the revolutions they led. But George Washington did.

To this day, he remains a human figure that embodies dedication to American independence. George Washington met the challenges and opportunities he faced with character and left a remarkable legacy that shaped the destiny of the free world. Admittedly, not many of us get an opportunity like that! But each of us can choose to leave a meaningful legacy of our own by living and teaching the same principles that guided men like George Washington. If you and I can consistently maintain a life of balance and make daily decisions with integrity, people may not raise a toast in our honor and call us someone who “unites men’s hearts” as they did with Washington, but they will certainly admire the quality of our lives and aspire to lead others with the same measured sense of balance.

## METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION



*Children’s Conservation Academy students show of cloud posters presented by Mark Moede (left rear) during a presentation with local NBC TV broadcast meteorologist Pat Brown (next to Mark).*

**San Diego Classroom Outreach:** On April 27, WFO San Diego MET Mark Moede teamed up with Pat Brown, the weekend weather TV anchor from the NBC affiliate in San Diego, to give a weather presentation to the fifth grade class at Children's Conservation Academy in City Heights.

Pat Brown covered the aspects of broadcast meteorology, and the students were thrilled to have a celebrity in their presence. Mark Moede presented the National Weather Service perspective of weather science, focusing on the information gathering, research, and forecasting. The students all received cloud charts and were given hands-on experience with a real weather balloon that was passed around the classroom.



*Joe Sirard presents a marine weather talk.*

**Marine Weather Outreach in Long Beach:** Joe Sirard, WFO Oxnard forecaster and marine program leader, traveled to Long Beach, CA. to present a marine weather talk at the April meeting of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 53. During the one-hour presentation, Joe provided information about the current state of the WFO LOX Marine Weather Program, including an overview of products issued and the various tools used to prepare forecasts, warnings, advisories and statements. The presentation included a tour of the NDFD Web site and the associated types of weather data and forecasts available on the internet.



**Pendleton's Employee of the Quarter:** PDT's Employee of the Quarter for January - March is Service Hydrologist Marilyn Lohmann. Marilyn does an excellent job managing the hydrology program and keeping the staff prepared for hydrologic events. She is also heavily involved in outreach and frequently gives talks at area schools and provides office tours. Marilyn has been a big help covering shifts during PDT's recent staff shortage and has worked the forecast desk with short notice on several occasions. She has also planned several office functions during the past few months. Marilyn contributes to the office in many ways and is a very valuable member of the PDT staff. Congratulations, Marilyn, on a job well done!



*Elko local LIFT participants meet.*

**WFO Elko Local LIFT Program:** WFO Elko held a kickoff meeting for the Local LIFT (Leadership and Innovation for Tomorrow) program on April 12. The program outline was discussed, and feedback was solicited from the volunteers. In addition, Kevin Baker gave a presentation to the group on communication. Members of the first Elko Local LIFT class include Delyne Kirkham, Rick Arkell, Roham Abtahi, Jeff Rood, Jim Beavers, and Jim Harmer. Future meetings will involve group discussions on various leadership topics and training sessions led by the management staff.

**Integrated Emergency Management Course:** On May 1-5, WFO Seattle WCM Ted Buehner was an instructor for the city of Renton's Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) in Emmitsburg, MD. The course was held at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI). The city of Renton sent about 75 staff members to the EMI venue, including law enforcement, fire, public works, water, parks, health, schools, and other city bureaus, including the mayor and three from their city council.

The exercise hazard was about a major Seattle fault event. The training session addressed NWS all-hazards weather support (IMETs, spot forecasts, NDFD, phone, exercises), including EAS message relay transmission via NWR. Most students were not aware of these NWS products and services. The

IEMC helps communities learn more about all-hazards planning and exercises their hazard response and recovery plans. Weaknesses in those plans are identified and addressed in future plan editions. The IEMC also helps communities better understand each player's roles in these events and helps bond community staff into a cohesive team.



*(L to R) Dennis Hull, Spencer Higginson, Ryan Sandler, and Andy Bryant*

### **Oregon WFOs Participate in Emergency Management**

**Conference:** WCMs from WFOs Portland, Medford and Pendleton (Tyree Wilde, Ryan Sandler, and Dennis Hull) along with Service Hydrologists Andy Bryant (WFO Portland) and Spencer Higginson (WFO Medford) participated in the Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) Conference, May 9-11 in Eugene, Oregon. They staffed an outreach booth during the three-day event, distributed materials on NWS products and services and networked with Emergency Managers from their local areas. Many of the presentations during the conference focused on preparedness, response and recover activities associated with natural disasters. Over 100 people attended the conference.



*Attendees at the Western Region-hosted Marine Workshop*

**WR Hosts Marine Workshop:** Western Region hosted a Marine Workshop at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Seaside, CA, May 1-4.

The training focused on wave analysis and forecasting, marine observations, coastal wind phenomena, tsunamis, and other operational marine topics. A total of 24 NWS forecasters attended from Western, Alaska, Pacific, Southern, and Eastern Regions. Marine weather experts from NWS, The Weather Channel, and US Army Corps of Engineers provided instruction and operational information. This the first year that Eastern and Southern Region have joined with Western, Alaska, and Pacific Regions, and it's the largest "regional" marine workshop conducted in

several years. It was highly successful not only because of the increased size, but also for the extensive in-person interaction between marine forecasters and experts in various fields.



**VADM Lautenbacher Visits Monterey:** NOAA Administrator Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher visited the Monterey Bay Forecast Office as part of a one day visit to the Monterey area. Admiral Lautenbacher spent about 45 min taking a tour of the office and hearing about NOAA activities the office participates in. He took the time to personally meet each staff member that could attend the all hands meeting. The Admiral also spent a few minutes telling the staff of his vision of One NOAA and answered questions from the staff.



*ET Curt Lutz demonstrates how to access information and products on the web.*

**Girl Scout Weather Workshop:** On April 29, WFO Monterey sponsored a Junior Girl Scout Weather Workshop in Watsonville, CA. Approximately 30 Girl Scouts - ranging from fourth through sixth grades spent about 25 minutes at five different "stations" where they learned about the NWS, weather forecasting, atmospheric pressure, hydrologic cycle and preparing for weather disasters (with help from the Red Cross). They learned how to make fog, rain, tornadoes and thunderstorms and designed a safety kit and learned how to read a weather map. At the end of the day, each Scout received a "Weather Badge."

**Emergency Spill Response Training Course:** Five people from NWS Western Region attended a three-day "NOAA Emergency Spill Response" course at Southern Region HQ in Ft. Worth, TX, May 9-11. WR attendees included Ryan Walbrun (WFO Monterey), Jeff Tonkin and Brett Lutz (WFO Eureka), Ed Clark (WFO San Diego), and Jeff Lorens (WRH). The course was intended for Incident Meteorologists (IMETs), but also provided valuable information for WCMs and regional program managers. Content focused on NOAA HAZMAT procedures for responding to hazardous spills/releases, including oil and chemical spills in ocean waters and on navigable inland waterways. NOAA HAZMAT provided copies of computer programs used to support emergency spill response, and devoted a significant portion of the class time to allow forecasters to practice using the software for various spill scenarios. This training provided a great opportunity for forecasters to learn how to better support emergency spill response efforts.



**Fire Season Approaches:**

IMET trainee and Journey-level Forecaster Jon Bonk takes meteorological readings at his first fire – the Rimrock Prescribed Burn (3000 acres) on the Umatilla National Forest.

**HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION**



**Greenfield Irrigation District Receives Coop Award:**

Gibson Dam and the Fairfield office of Greenfield Irrigation received 75-year length-of-service awards from the National Weather Service on May 8. The district has been taking Co-operative observations since February of 1931. Russ Barrett, Co-operative observer at Fairfield, and Lee Carlbom Co-operative Observer at Gibson Dam accepted the awards for Greenfield Irrigation District. Presenting the awards for National Weather Service was

Steve Breuske (WFO Great Falls MIC) and Gina Loss (WFO Great Falls Service Hydrologist).

## **SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION**

**Verification Training:** SSD has begun using the SOO/DOH conference calls to provide training and facilitate the sharing of ideas about the initial use of the verification applications. The tentative list of upcoming topics:

- How to use the verification tools to evaluate our TD/TH forecast for the upcoming fire weather season
- How can you use the verification tools to help evaluate new GFE procedures --- Boise experience.

### **Verification Modules:**

- ***QC Tool - How to use the application:*** The first link is the training developed by Tiffani Brown (Portland WFO): [http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital\\_services/training/ObsQc2/ObsQc2-index.html](http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/ObsQc2/ObsQc2-index.html)
- ***Basic Quality Control principles to apply when using the QC Application:*** This training module was developed by David Myrick (SSD) [http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital\\_services/training/Obs\\_QC\\_basics/](http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/Obs_QC_basics/)
- ***Understanding Representatives Errors:*** This training module was developed by David Myrick (SSD) [http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital\\_services/training/Rep\\_Error\\_basics\\_final/#](http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/Rep_Error_basics_final/#)
- ***Understanding how objective analyses are created:*** Discusses the differences between MatchObsAll, RUC, and RTMA analyses. Developed by David Myrick (SSD) [http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital\\_services/training/](http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/)

**GOES-11 moving to GOES-West Position:** GOES-11 will replace the GOES-10 as the GOES-WEST operational satellite on June 27. No change will be required on AWIPS. GOES-10 is getting old and running low on fuel. GOES-10 will drift eastward to 60 degree west and serve as an imager for South America as long as the fuel remains.

**NAM-WRF will replace ETA on June 13:** The Eta will be replaced by the new NAM-WRF on June 13. The WRF will replace the Eta field on a one-for-one basis on AWIPS. The next AWIPS build will update the User Interface names later this summer. An Artikuate WERF training model was sent to the SOOs/DOHs earlier this month. We expect a shorter version targeted for the forecasters to be ready by June 13.

### **Upcoming Science Workshops:**

**IMET All-Hazards Workshop - May 22-26:** The workshop, taught by first responders in the urban fire and law enforcement community, will provide an opportunity for IMETS and trainees to learn first hand about how non-wildfire incidents will operate and what those first responders concerns are, allowing the IMET to tailor services to these type of operations. The workshop will be held in Boise ID, May 22 to 26. Please contact Heath Hockenberry or Larry VanBussum for more information.

**Great Divide Workshop – Oct 3-5:** The Tenth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings, Montana from October 3-5, 2006. NOAA's National Weather Service Offices in Billings and Glasgow are sponsoring this workshop

focusing on the exchange of weather and hydrologic forecasting information unique to the Northern Rockies and High Plains. A call for papers and registration information will be made available during the spring of 2006.

More information can be obtained by contacting NOAA's National Weather Service Forecast Office in Billings, Montana at 406-652-0851, or in Glasgow, Montana at 406-228-4042. You can also email any questions to: [wr.great.divide.workshop@noaa.gov](mailto:wr.great.divide.workshop@noaa.gov).

### **Training Update:**

#### **COMET Satellite Hydrometeorology (SHyMet) Course:**

- **Objective** - Prepare NOAA/NWS users for the latest polar orbiting and geostationary satellite data and products in the warning and forecast programs with direct links to Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) goals.
- **Primary Target Audience** - NWS Interns
- **Instructors** - NOAA/NESDIS, CIRA, CIMSS, VISIT, and COMET staff.
- **Approach** - Taught through a combination of web-based instruction and teletraining. Course takes approximately 16 hours to complete.
- **Course Web Page** - [http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/training/shymet/intern\\_intro.asp](http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/training/shymet/intern_intro.asp)
- **Registration** - Underway
- **First Course Offering** – Underway
- Please note: To register for this course, first send email to [shymet@ssec.wisc.edu](mailto:shymet@ssec.wisc.edu) and you will be sent setup instructions. DO NOT go to E-Learning LMS site to register until you review these instructions.

**Warning Decision Branch – AWOC:** Registration is now open for the AWOC Winter Track Facilitator Orientation. Sessions are scheduled from April 20 to June 1. All AWOC Facilitators should enroll in an Orientation session. To register for your AWOC Winter Track Orientation session go to: <https://wdtb.noaa.gov/security/logon.aspx>

**Teletraining Sessions for May:** The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for May is now available. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: [visit@comet.ucar.edu](mailto:visit@comet.ucar.edu). The teletraining calendar is now at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ecal.asp>

The teletraining planning calendar with other sessions is at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/planning.html>

The remaining sessions planned for May are:

- Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products (Basic, May 31)
- The Enhanced-V: A Satellite Severe Storm Signature (Basic, May 19)

Several recorded VISIT session are available via LMS: <http://e-learning.doc.gov/coursecatalog/index.cfm>. Then, go to National Weather Service Courses and

search on VISIT.

All previous sessions including those with recorded instructor audio and annotations are available at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ts.html>

**Water Supply Website:** In conjunction with the release of the experimental western water supply forecast web pages, we will host a conference call briefing describing the page. Members of the development team will be on-hand to answer questions following the briefing. The briefing is scheduled for 10am MT on May 23.

The website URL is: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cbrfc/westernwater/map.php?map=wsup>

This website is a one-stop shop to NWS water supply forecasts. Forecasts from River Forecast Centers are displayed on a common map. The large scale map displayed on the first page shows basins color coded according to their respective forecasts. The forecasts are expressed in percent of seasonal average. Currently only basins west of the Continental Divide plus those in the Great Basin are included. We hope to include basins on the east side of the Divide where water supply forecasts are available in the near future.

There is a link to provide feedback on this experimental product. Any feedback comments will be addressed following the evaluation period this spring before this website may be made operational next year. We appreciate any feedback you might have.

**Hydrology Verification Team:** Last year, OHD chartered a national team to develop the “NWS Hydrology Verification Plan.” The team’s preliminary report will be available for comment between May 26 and June 16. If you are interested in providing feedback, please contact Kevin Werner to make sure you get a copy.

**USGS PRMS Training:** PRMS is a rainfall-runoff model that is part of the USGS modular modeling system (MMS). SSD has worked with the USGS to organize training for interested people. The training has been set for August 28-30 in Denver. SSD is coordinating with USGS on pre-training logistics and assignments. Please contact Kevin Werner for more information.

## **SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**Safety and Upper Air:** Harold Knocke traveled to Spokane for the RRS Installation, and he assisted the office on their safety program.

**NEXRAD Support:** Gerry Deiotte visited the Seattle WFO to assist in preparation of the NEXRAD for Open RDA. Gerry and the electronics staff performed alignments along with the ORDA check off sheet.

**Sexton Summit Project:** Tom Page traveled to Sexton Summit Oregon to begin work on the Sexton Summit Project. He re-routed the phone lines, moved the fuel tank, moved the generator, and coordinated the power line move.

**UPS Pre-Install Visit:** Lee Jenson traveled to Tucson to conduct the pre-install work for the upcoming UPS upgrade that is scheduled for the week of June 19.

**San Diego Upper Air:** Jim MaClellan, Randy Miller, and Lee Jenson, along with the WFO San Diego Electronics Staff, completed the room construction and moved the contract upper air personnel into their new work space. All construction and electrical work performed in order to prepare the new room.

**Generator Work:** Tom Page completed the generator maintenance work for WFO San Diego and WFO Las Vegas.

**Facilities PMs:** Randy Miller performed facilities maintenance support at the WFO SLC NEXRAD. He painted the fuel tank and performed preventive maintenance work.

Mike Belarde performed facilities preventative maintenance work on the WFO Seattle NEXRAD and also on ASOS. Dan Clark performed facilities preventative maintenance work at WFO Medford.